

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

Monday, July 27, 1981

and

Tuesday, July 28, 1981

J. C. GILBERT
CHAIRMAN

400 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

July 27 & 28, 1981

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

July 27, 1981
and
July 28, 1981

Chairman J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert, presiding

Members present:

Mr. Wayne C. Ducote
Mr. James C. Farrelly
Mr. J. C. Gilbert
Mr. George N. Gray
Mr. Jesse M. Knowles
Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron
Mr. Charles A. Riggs

Secretary Jesse J. Guidry was absent.

* * * *

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. J. C. Gilbert, on Monday, July 27, 1981, at 2:00 P.M.

A roll call of members present was taken. All Commission Members were in attendance.

Upon motion of Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, the Commission dispensed with the reading of the minutes of the Commission Meeting held on June 22 and 23, 1981, and moved their adoption.

Chairman Gilbert requested an amendment be added to the official minutes of the June meeting to include the attendance of three fur buyers at the meeting. This is to become an official part of the record.

Dr. Ted Ford, Assistant Secretary, made a presentation commending Dr. Lyle S. St. Amant for his contributions to the State of Louisiana and Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Dr. Ford stated that Dr. St. Amant began his career with the Department approximately 34 years ago as a field biologist. At the time of his retirement on June 30, 1980, he was Assistant Secretary of the Office of Coastal and Marine Resources, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Dr. St. Amant has become one of the foremost experts on estuarine ecology during his tenure with the Department, Dr. Ford continued. He was very much concerned about the effects on the wetlands of Louisiana and also coastal and marine resources of this state. He recognized their value and worked for the good of this state in terms of trying to bring an orderly development in the oil and gas resources, in the development of the fisheries, establishment of the Marine Research Laboratory on Grand Terre Island, and many more noteworthy accomplishments.

Dr. St. Amant was presented with a plaque; Mr. Max Summers accepted the plaque for him since he is ill at this time. The inscription on the plaque noted Dr. St. Amant's outstanding achievements for the Department in the management of Louisiana's natural resources. Also, a shield was on the plaque with the words "Assistant Director."

Chairman Gilbert asked Mr. Summers to convey to Dr. St. Amant the best wishes and regard from each and every member of the Commission. He stated that Dr. St. Amant did a most worthwhile duty and job for the many years he served with the Department.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, and passed unanimously that a renewal permit be granted to Louisiana Paving Company to remove fill material from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Mile 143.5 and 144.0 AHP.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made part of the record)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Louisiana Paving Company, Inc., to remove fill material from the Mississippi River at Mile 143.5 and 144.0 AHP for a period of one year from July 29, 1981 to July 29, 1982 at a royalty rate of 10¢ per cubic yard.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, and passed unanimously, to ratify a permit to take mullet while fishing with a menhaden license in the Chandeleur-Breton Sound Sanctuary Area.

Dr. Ford said the purpose of the mullet permit is to permit and encourage development of a resource which has been underutilized. A sample of the permit with its restrictions and requirements, etc., is appended to these minutes. These permits are restricted to Louisiana residents only. At this time, ten (10) permits have been issued.

Dr. Ford presented information concerning the brown shrimp season which began on May 18th of this year. He stated that approximately 27,312,934 pounds of shrimp were landed which is about two million pounds more than in 1977 which was a record year. The conditions were extremely favorable this year and the shrimp harvest is probably an all-time record. (Report appended to these minutes.)

Dr. Ford presented a report on the outlook for the white shrimp season and on the Texas closure. (Reports appended to these minutes.)

Mr. James C. Farrelly's report on income from shell dredging was deferred to the August meeting. Commissioner Ducote requested additional information from Dr. Ford concerning this before the next meeting.

Mr. Ron Dugas, Supervisor, Marine Laboratory, showed some slides of the condition of the oyster seed grounds around the state. He pointed out that 1980 was a rather poor production year with 6.7 million pounds landed in the state which is the lowest production since the year 1966 when 4.7 million pounds were landed.

Mr. Harry Schafer, Chief, Seafood Division, recommended the oyster seed reservations--Bay Junop, Vermillion Bay, and the northern portion of the red line area be opened on September 9th. He recommended that Bay Gardene and Sister Lake be opened on October 12th. Sister Lake would be open for 20 days through October 31st. He also recommended that American Bay and California Bay be opened on November 2nd. Hackberry Bay and Bay Craba which had shell plants this year would remain closed for one year.

Mr. Mike Voisin, representing Plaquemines Parish Oyster Association and the Louisiana Oyster Dealers and

Growers Association, voiced his objection to the November 2nd opening in the American Bay and California Bay areas. He said there would be increased fishing pressure on the outside and may cause a conflict between the larger and smaller boats. Most of the oysters inside the Bay area are marketable and by opening this area on September 9th, this would give the smaller boats an opportunity to make some money this year.

Mr. Voisin invited all Commissioners to a "Day in the Bay" on August 22nd to be sponsored by the oyster industry. A boat would leave Point a la Hache at 8:00 AM to take the Commissioners to the seed grounds so that they could see the oysters in there and then they would eat and have a good time.

Motion was made by Mr. James C. Farrelly, seconded Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously, that Mr. Schafer's recommendations be accepted for the seasons in the oyster seed reservations with the exception of California and American Bay area which will open September 9th.

(The full text of the resolution
is here made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the natural oyster reefs ("Public Oyster Seed Grounds") under the managerial supervision of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries must open on the first Wednesday following Labor Day, September 9, 1981, as provided for by Louisiana Law Title 56, Section 433, and

WHEREAS, "Public Oyster Seed Reservations" are small portions of the "Public Oyster Seed Grounds" managed and controlled for seed oyster production which are used as a reserve supply and opened on alternate years, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries had clam shells deposited in an area commonly referred to as Bay Craba/Plaquemine Parish and Hackberry Bay/ Jefferson Parish to provide cultch material for oyster setting and it will take approximately one year for this plant to materialize, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries does hereby set the season in the Bay Junop Oyster Seed Reservation on September 9, 1981, and the season in the Bay Gardene and Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation one-half hour before sunrise on Monday, October 12, 1981, utilizing a permit system, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sister Lake Oyster Seed Reservation will open only for a twenty (20) day period and will close November 1, 1981; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the area of Bay Craba will remain closed during the 1981/82 season to allow the shell plant area to mature, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hackberry Bay Oyster Seed Reservation will remain closed for the entire season.

* * *

Mr. Harry Schafer announced the Louisiana Consumers League had asked him to invite all Commissioners to a luncheon at the Nunez School in Chalmette at 12:30 today to eat shark prepared in six different ways.

Mr. James C. Farrelly made a statement for the record that Dr. Ford had previously mentioned Judge Collins had ruled on our case regarding the Texas closure. This was a misunderstanding; the Judge has not ruled on our lawsuit.

Mr. Huey Sanders stated that he came before the Commission at the December 1980 meeting regarding the U. S. Coast Guard's requirements for visual distress signals on boats which would go into effect on January 1, 1981. He said the Commission had deferred this back to the Legislature. The Legislature looked at the problem, tabled it, and took no action.

Chairman Gilbert asked that the Department publicize the Coast Guard's requirements for visual distress signals so that the public would be informed. He said the Commission would consider a resolution making this a part of the state law.

Mr. Dewey Wills discussed House Concurrent Resolution No. 71 which was passed and concurred in by the Senate at the last session of the Legislature concerning doe seasons in Louisiana. Mr. Wills stated that the Commission set the seasons based on good management programs and recommended that no action be taken.

Chairman Gilbert said the concurrent resolution "urges and requests" and is not a direct order, and, therefore, the Commission feels that no changes should be made and no action taken concerning doe seasons.

Motion was made by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, seconded by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, and passed unanimously by a roll call

vote, that the alligator season be set for August 31st through September 30, 1981. The alligator season will be statewide. (Regulations appended to these minutes.)

(The full text of the resolution is here made part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has the authority under the Endangered Species Act to establish an alligator season, and

WHEREAS, the alligator population in Louisiana has been determined by biologists of the Department to be capable of sustaining an annual harvest of surplus animals, and

WHEREAS, the removal of surplus animals is considered to be a wise use of this natural resource of the State of Louisiana, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules, regulations, and guidelines for administering the 1981 alligator season. (Regulations appended to these minutes.)

* * *

Mr. Leon Sidell, representing Escanta Land Company with 33,000 acres of land, and Mr. Henry Beach, Land Manager, Lutchter and Moore Company, with 58,000 acres of land, objected to the extremely conservative alligator program which he felt would defeat all the progress up until now in conserving the alligator. He said the alligator is now the dominant factor and controls the environment.

Mr. Allan Ensminger, Chief, Fur and Refuge Division, in his closing statements, said if this season is not handled correctly; if we are not cautious, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not permit an alligator season in Louisiana. The alligator is still controlled by the Endangered Species Act. The requirements of tagging immediately upon killing, the whole process contained in the resolution are covered by regulations of the Endangered Species Act.

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. George N. Gray, and passed unanimously, that the fur trapping season north of Interstate 12 and Interstate 10

open on November 20 and end on February 15, 1982; and the area south of the dividing line of I-12 and I-10 open on December 1st and end on February 28th. An experimental season will be held in the southern zone in the "fourchette" areas beginning November 20, 1981.

(The full text of the resolution is here made part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the fur industry of Louisiana represents a major resource of economy and income for many of the citizens of our state; and

WHEREAS, this resource is a renewable natural one, which has proven under wise management to increase in importance in our state; and

WHEREAS, an annual harvest of the surplus animals is in keeping with wise wildlife management techniques based on scientific management; and

WHEREAS, technicians of the Fur and Refuge Division have sufficient field research available to recommend earlier opening and closing dates for the northern part of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, a convenient dividing line could be established for ease of enforcement by utilizing the Interstate 10 and Interstate 12 highway system which runs across the state in an east/west direction, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby establish the 1981-82 fur bearers trapping season for the northern zone as being November 20, 1981 through February 15, 1982, and the southern zone as being December 1, 1981, through February 28, 1982; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that experimental harvest areas can be established in the southern zone after November 20, 1981, to evaluate quality of fur in *Bidens laevis* "Fourchette" producing areas.

* * *

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that the Commission has no objection to the State Mineral Board awarding leases on the state-owned waterbottoms of Vermillion

Bay adjacent to but outside the boundary of State Wildlife Refuge.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

WHEREAS, the State Mineral Board has received petitions for leasing of minerals under state-owned waterbottoms in Vermilion Bay adjacent to the State Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS, no waterbottoms would be leased within the boundaries of the State Wildlife Refuge, and

WHEREAS, it is felt that mineral development of the state-owned waterbottoms can be permitted without creating environmental damages to the Department-owned properties, and

WHEREAS, any mineral reservoirs developed which would include portions of the State Wildlife Refuge could be produced under provisions of production units, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does not have any objection to the State Mineral Board offering for lease and awarding subsequent leases on the state-owned waterbottoms of Vermilion Bay adjacent to but outside of the boundary of the State Wildlife Refuge located in Vermilion Parish.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is hereby authorized to sign all documents pertaining to this matter.

* * *

Commissioner James C. Farrelly nominated Mr. Bennie Fontenot to receive the Wayne Ducote Award of the Month for the thickest packet prepared for this meeting.

Motion was made by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, seconded by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, and passed unanimously by a roll call vote, that the item on the agenda to prohibit the use of all commercial webbing on Toledo Bend Reservoir be deferred to the August meeting.

Mr. Bennie Champlin, Jonesville, Louisiana, spokesman for commercial fishermen, stated he was opposed to prohibiting commercial webbing on Toledo Bend.

Chairman Gilbert recognized Mrs. M. Bobby Orgeron in the audience and introduced her to the Commission Members. He thanked Mrs. Orgeron for being in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Wayne Ducote stated there is a growing and serious problem concerning boating safety, especially in municipalities, such as, New Orleans. He said the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is charged with the responsibility for enforcing boating laws and the Department does not have enough agents to take care of this problem. The agents are involved with hunting, fishing, trapping and shrimping violations along with the boating safety.

Mr. Ducote stressed the need for better laws in general and better regulations for municipal problem areas. He suggested that the Commission bring before the Legislature a request for having a boat operator's license for boat operators with vessels over 12 ft. He suggested also requiring an educational period and initial test prior to issuance of a boat operator's license. He suggested further that the money generated by the sales of boat operator licenses could be dedicated to boating safety.

Chairman Gilbert asked Mr. Ducote to check with the proper legislative authorities as to how the Commission should proceed with his proposal to require a boat operator's license.

Motion was made by Mr. Charles A. Riggs, seconded by Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron, and passed unanimously, that the Commission hear a presentation by Mr. Donnie Crain which was not on the printed agenda.

Mr. Donnie Crain, Vice President of the Washington Parish Police Jury, Bogalusa area, representing a group of hunters, requested that the Commission rescind the regulation for no hunting with dogs on the land located on the east side of Highway 21 from the Washington Parish line to the Mississippi State line for the 1981-82 hunting season.

(The full text of the resolution is here made a part of the record.)

On motion offered by Mr. Donnie Crain, seconded by Mr. Ellis Adams, that the Washington Parish Police Jury go on record opposing the closure of the section of land located on the east side of Highway 21 (from the Washington Parish Line to the Mississippi State Line) and we would like to ask

your help in re-opening this section of land for the 1981-82 hunting season.

* * *

Mr. James Farrelly stated that each year the Commission holds public hearings on seasons and bag limits to hear everybody's side. He said it was important that the hunters come to the hearings to state their position. Since no one came from his area to the hearings, the Commission did not have their input. He stated that last year Mr. Crain petitioned the Commission to make this same change after the seasons were set and the hunting regulations pamphlet printed and again this year he is making the same plea. The Commission is in the same position this year as last year with the hunting regulations pamphlet being printed right now.

Mr. Ducote concurred in Mr. Farrelly's remarks. He felt it was not fair that the Commission be asked to do this again for the second year. He asked Mr. Crain to come to the public hearings next year and state his views.

Chairman Gilbert said the Department Secretary wrote every policy jury in the state informing them of the three public hearings, the dates, and where they would be held. Also, a news release was sent out to each parish and daily newspaper in the state, radio stations, TV stations, etc.

Mr. Donnie Crain's request was denied by the Commission.

Chairman Gilbert gave a report on the Ducks Unlimited Meeting in Baton Rouge, June 26-27, 1981, concerning a duck stamp. He said a three-man committee was appointed from the Commission: Mr. Charles A. Riggs, Chairman; Mr. M. Bobby Orgeron; and Mr. George N. Gray. They will meet with the three-man committee from Ducks Unlimited to discuss the possibility of recommending to the Legislature that we have a Louisiana duck stamp.

Chairman Gilbert announced the August meeting will be held in New Orleans on August 24 and 25, 1981. The September meeting will also be held in New Orleans on September 28 and 29, 1981.

Motion was made by Mr. Wayne C. Ducote, seconded by Mr. James C. Farrelly, and passed unanimously, that the meeting be adjourned.

* * *

Approved by:

Jesse J. Guidry
Secretary

J. C. "Sonny" Gilbert
Chairman

Minutes transcribed
by Jan Sommers

Permit to catch mullet with a menhaden license
1981

Permit No.
Vessel

Gentlemen:

This letter will serve as your permit to take mullet while fishing with a menhaden license. This permit is valid under the provisions of Section 324 of Title 56 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, which reads:

"Anyone fishing with a menhaden license shall not have in their possession more than five percent, by volume, of any species of fish other than menhaden, herring-like species, and mullet. The taking of mullet shall require, in addition, to a menhaden license, a special permit which shall be obtained from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries."

As provided by Section 324, this permit allows you to catch mullet as well as menhaden using the Menhaden License. However, this permit does not free you from any regulations or state laws concerning fishing, including the restriction which prohibits you from possessing more than five percent by volume of other species of fish. This permit is subject to immediate revision or revocation should any Statutory Laws which conflict with this permit be enacted while the permit is valid.

You will be required to adhere to the following conditions in order to operate under this permit:

1. Mullet is the only target species which can be harvested with this permit. The volume of other species in possession while this permit is being used cannot exceed 5% of the total volume of fish in possession.
2. No dressing or processing of fish, except for gutting, is permitted until the catch is in port.
3. All fish harvested under this permit are to be landed at a Louisiana port.
4. A semimonthly report of the catch taken must be furnished to the Seafood Division of the Department. The Department will provide report forms to

Permit to catch mullet with a menhaden license
1981

be used for this purpose. All information requested on such forms is to be provided by the permittee. The semimonthly reports are to cover the first day of the month through the fifteenth day of the month, and the sixteenth day of the month through the last day of the month. Any report which has not been provided to the Department by one week after the last date of its coverage shall be considered to be delinquent and can result in the revocation of this permit. The report must list each date on which fishing occurred, and each set made on that date must be identified with the time the set was made, the type of mullet caught (i.e. red roe, white roe, or no roe), the total weight of each type of mullet in that set, and the location where that set was made. An estimate of the weight of each species other than mullet caught in that set must also be provided. A report must be submitted for each semimonthly period the permit is in effect, even if fishing resulted in no fish caught, or if no fishing took place.

5. The vessel used under this permit must bear a sign with the word "MULLET" in bold black block letters no less than 8" high, width in proportion, on a white background. This sign must be large enough and placed in a manner that the word "MULLET" can be read by a low-flying airplane. The vessel to be used under this permit bears Coast Guard Documentation Number _____, is named _____, with the home port of _____. No other vessel may be used under this permit.
6. All proper licenses, and this permit, must be on board the vessel while fishing under this permit. All vehicles used to transport the catch, either in-state or out-of-state must have the proper transport licenses.
7. Both the Seafood Division (Telephone: 568-5685) and the Enforcement Division (Telephone: 568-5659) of the Department must be notified at least 24 hours before fishing occurs under this permit. Following notification that the vessel is operating under this permit, and until the Department is notified that the permitted trip is ended, any use of the vessel is subject to the regulations specified by this permit. The Department reserves the right to observe at any time the fishing and unloading of fish taking place under this permit. The permittee will provide accommodations for the Department's representative on the permitted vessel and a sample of 50-100 fish from each set at the request of the Department. Immediately upon arrival to the dock from a permitted trip, the permittee shall notify the Department by telephone (1-800-442-2511) that the permitted trip is ended. The permittee may then utilize his gear and vessel in non-permitted activities.
8. No fishing may occur under this permit on Saturday, Sunday or any official Louisiana State Holiday.
9. This permit is valid only inside the Chandeleur Sanctuary. No fishing under this permit may occur within 2500 feet of any point of land.

Permit to catch mullet with a menhaden license
1981

10. This permit becomes effective on July 14, 1981 and expires on October 16, 1981.
11. Failure to comply with the stipulations of this permit, or with any of the Louisiana laws regarding fishing and/or motorboat operation will result in the revocation of this permit. The permittee shall be ineligible for any other permit for a period of one year after the permit is revoked. The permittee may also be cited for the violation of any of the Statutory Laws relating to fishing.

**SHRIMP INFORMATION
FOR
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**

JULY 27, 1981

1981 LOUISIANA SPRING SHRIMP SEASON

The inland shrimp season in Louisiana opened on May 18, 1981 in all three zones. Favorable hydrological conditions, i.e., high salinities (brought about by low river discharges and below average coastal rainfalls) and above average water temperature, provided optimum conditions for survival and growth of postlarvae and juvenile brown shrimp. These favorable conditions and the lack of disparity among shrimp sizes coastwide supported the uniform opening in all three zones.

Reports of large numbers of juvenile shrimp in trawl samples from our field personnel and continued recruitment of larvae indicated conditions were favorable for a near record shrimp production year. Subsequent catches along the Louisiana coast bore this out. To illustrate this, Table 1 shows preliminary May-June shrimp landings for Louisiana from 1977 through 1981. These 1981 landings are the highest ever recorded, surpassing the 1977 record year. To further illustrate landings, the May-June Louisiana shrimp landings are shown by parish or port in Table 2.

Every parish and port shown in Table 2, with the exception of Orleans Parish, recorded a dramatic increase in shrimp landings over those recorded in 1980 for the same time period. In 1981, however, the central part of the state (Jefferson, Terrebonne, Lafourche, St. Mary Parishes and Grand Isle), did not keep pace with 1977, while the eastern (St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes) and western (Cameron and Vermilion Parishes) areas recorded significant increases in landings over 1977.

During 1981, several buyers expanded existing out-of-state markets and many new markets were developed, primarily in Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. Significant quantities of shrimp were sold through these markets. Additionally, many fishermen, in an effort to increase their profit margin, began peddling their shrimp from pickup trucks and vans along the roadside. This activity increased

substantially in 1981, and a significant quantity of shrimp was marketed in this manner.

It is doubtful if any of these shrimp were recorded in the landings.

1981 WHITE SHRIMP SEASON OUTLOOK

Conditions through the fourth week of July look favorable for areas west of the Mississippi. Density levels in Areas IV, V, and VII are comparable to good production years of the past. Area VII, in particular, is showing strong density indications.

Distribution is fairly widespread, with juvenile populations in good numbers throughout the estuaries, not simply concentrated in certain areas. Study Area III, which normally reports moderate levels of white juveniles, appears to have adequate white recruitment. Areas IV and V show good distribution and adequate recruitment. Only Study Area VI is running behind previous years' catch, but should begin to report increasing densities. The Biloxi marsh area east of the Mississippi River is reporting the highest catch per effort for white shrimp ever recorded. Juvenile white shrimp are appearing in trawl catches in other areas east of the Mississippi, however, in smaller numbers.

Salinities are slightly below average, especially in the western half of the coast, but conditions are adequate for white shrimp survival and growth. With an apparent end to the rain cycle, these levels should increase through the remainder of the summer.

If conditions continue to improve as expected, white shrimp production should be adequate.

TEXAS CLOSURE

There was no visible impact from the Texas closure east of the Mississippi River. Checks by Department personnel did not reveal any increase in the numbers of Texas boats, or any problems with docking space, fuel or ice supplies. This generally holds true for the areas west of the Mississippi from Barataria to Vermilion Bay. The Texas closure did, however, have an adverse effect on some market conditions. Dealers in the Barataria Bay area did report that when the season reopened in Texas (on July 16), prices of smaller shrimp were depressed, and they felt that they were more or less at the mercy of the Texas dealers.

Reports were received that minor discrepancies offshore, mostly dealing with right-of-way and intrusions into "secret holes" did occur.

In the Cameron area, basically, everyone contacted was in complete agreement relative to their assessment of the closure; it did no harm, in fact, the dealers profited from the increased landings. One dealer in particular compared landings through June with last year--this year in excess of one million pounds of tails were landed in comparison to two hundred thousand last year. The shrimp houses were able to handle the tremendous volume of shrimp in spite of the increased Texas business.

In regards to ice, there were, again, no noticeable problems. As one dealer admitted, the ice business, which is a service to the fisherman for his business, is actually a losing proposition financially. However, with the increased demand from Texas fishermen, a little profit was realized.

In summation, from the dealers' standpoint, the closure proved beneficial. The only complaint registered by the dealer group related to dock space, which is at present barely able to accomodate the local fishermen. The docking facilities were

inadequate for the increased boat traffic. This became especially noticeable when a storm developed off Cameron in June forcing all the offshore vessels into port.

TABLE I

<u>Years</u>	<u>Opening Dates</u>	<u>La. Shrimp Landings May-June (heads off)</u>
1981	May 19 - All Zones	27,312,934
1980	May 24 - Zone II June 2 - Zones I, III	14,423,892
1979	May 14 - Zone II May 28 - Zone I June 4 - Zone III	19,734,040
1978	May 25 - Zone II May 29 - Zones I, III	23,920,356
1977	May 16 - Zone II May 30 - Zones I, III	25,400,229

TABLE 2. LOUISIANA BROWN AND WHITE SHRIMP LANDINGS - MAY/JUNE

<u>Parish</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1977</u>
Orleans	7,235	13,183	81,963
St. Bernard	1,248,902	885,784	833,254
Plaquemines	5,302,826	3,673,413	2,803,378
Jefferson	2,821,874	1,078,022	3,539,123
Grand Isle	<u>2,629,916</u>	<u>1,136,587</u>	<u>3,154,971</u>
Total Eastern District	12,007,753	6,787,007	10,412,698
<hr/>			
Lafourche	3,323,806	1,876,677	4,252,035
Terrebonne	7,989,927	4,787,241	8,800,234
St. Mary	<u>197,423</u>	<u>84,663</u>	<u>262,273</u>
Total Central District	11,511,156	6,748,581	13,314,542
<hr/>			
Jeff Davis	-----	-----	9,042
Cameron	2,046,239	342,825	591,554
Vermilion	<u>1,747,786</u>	<u>559,482</u>	<u>1,072,393</u>
Total Western District	27,312,934	14,437,892	25,400,229

***Source: National Marine Fisheries Service**

ALLIGATOR REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND
FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD IN NEW ORLEANS,
LOUISIANA ON TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1981

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries recommends that an alligator season be hereby established in accordance with the following regulations: No exceptions of these procedures will be permitted, and anyone taking alligators contrary to these regulations will be charged in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes and/or appropriate federal laws:

1. Open area - The entire state of Louisiana; with harvest quotas being rigidly controlled according to alligator population estimates within all of the state's wetland habitat types. Over 450,000 alligators are present in this area outside of refuges.
2. Harvest season - The open season shall run for a 31-day period beginning on August 31, 1981, and continue through September 30, 1981. Size - no alligators under four feet in length may be taken.
3. Harvest methods - Alligators may be taken only during daylight hours, between one-half hour before official sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Special instructions will be issued to the holders of alligator hunter licenses shortly before the opening of the season describing detailed methods regarding the skinning of alligators. Skins processed contrary to the specific requirements of the Department will be considered illegal and will be confiscated by Department personnel. Pole hunting is prohibited to protect

the nesting female population.

4. Licenses - An alligator hunter must have a valid commercial alligator hunter license to take, transport, or sell alligators or their skins. The fee for the resident license is \$25.00 per year and for the non-resident \$150.00. These licenses are non-transferable. In order to obtain a resident license, the hunter must have resided in Louisiana for one year preceeding the season. He must complete application forms provided by the Department and furnish proof that he owns the land or has an agreement with the landowner to hunt alligators on the specified property. Information as to the location and acreage of the property must be provided. Applications must be submitted beginning August 1, 1981. The alligator hunter license will be issued only after the hunter has satisfactorily complied with the above requirements. Non-resident hunters must coordinate their hunt through landowners and licensed resident hunters. A fur buyer license or fur dealer license is required for purchasing and handling raw alligator skins in Louisiana. An alligator parts dealers license is required of anyone purchasing alligator parts (other than hides) for resale, manufacturing, processing, and distribution; excluding retailers and restaurants. Persons or firms entering alligators in interstate/foreign commerce in the course of a commercial activity must be licensed in accordance with state and federal regulations. Persons shipping alligators, or alligator skins and/or parts to another state must do so in accordance with the regulations

of that state.

5. Tagging - In addition to a valid commercial alligator hunting license, the hunter must also obtain from the Department, and have in his possession while hunting, official tags which must be firmly attached to each alligator skin immediately upon taking. Numbered tags will be issued to license holders for a sum of \$5.00. The tags must be attached in the last 6 inches of the tail. The tag must remain attached to the skin until finally processed by the fabricator. It shall be illegal to possess alligator skins in Louisiana without valid official tags attached. Official alligator tags will be issued only to alligator hunters, and farmers and only to those who have authorized applications. The number of tags will be issued on the basis of the area and quality of the habitat, and the rate per acre will be fixed based on extensive population estimates. Tags will be issued for alligator habitat only, based on final decision of Department biologists. No more than this fixed number of tags will be issued. Each official tag will bear a characteristic number, and the tag numbers issued to each hunter will be recorded. Unused tags must be returned to the Department. Lost or stolen tags will not be replaced but must be reported. Tags can be used only on the lands applied for and approved on the application. Tags furnished by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries must be attached to all alligator meat/parts upon transfer by a hunter or farmer.

6. Alligator Farmers and Breeders - Licensed alligator farmers

or breeders will be issued permits to kill and skin their alligators but must follow the same rules and regulations which apply to wild alligators.

7. Harvest Rates - Tags will be issued on the following basis, with the exception of alligator farmers, breeders and the nuisance complaint program.

Parish	Tag Allotment/Marsh Type		
	Brackish	Intermediate	Fresh
Cameron Calcasieu	1:225	1:100	1:100
Vermilion	1:400	1:100	1:300
Iberia	1:250	1:200	1:125
St. Mary	1:250	1:200	1:225
Terrebonne	1:400	1:175	1:200
Lafourche St. Charles St. Bernard	1:400	1:100	1:100
Jefferson	1:400	1:225	1:150
Plaquemines	1:400	1:100	1:250
St. Tammany	1:300	1:200	1:125
Orleans	1:400		
Jeff Davis Tangipahoa St. John the Baptist			1:100
Swamp Dewatered Marsh	1:500		

1981 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR HARVEST DISTRICT AND PARISH

DISTRICT	PARISH	HABITAT	ACRES	TAG ALLOTMENT	ACRES/TAG	REMARKS
I	CADDO	CROSS LAKE	500	10	50	EXPERIMENTAL SEASON
	DESOTO	CLEAR LAKE	3,000	60	50	
	SUB TOTAL		3,500	70		
II	OUACHITA	BLACK BAYOU LAKE	720	15	50	"
	SUB TOTAL		720	15		
	GRANT	IATT LAKE	3,000	15	200	
III	RAPIDES	INDIAN CREEK LAKE	500	20	25	"
		COTILE LAKE	400	10	40	
		KINCAID LAKE	550	15	36.6	
	VERNON	ANACOCO	1,000	15	67	"
		VERNON	400	10	40	
	SUB TOTAL					
IV	TENSAS	LAKE ST. JOSEPH	500	25	20	"
		PARISH BRAKES	10,480	35	300	
	SUB TOTAL		10,650	115		
	MADISON	PARISH BRAKES	4,000	13	300	---
	CALDWELL	BOEUF W.M.A.	700	15	50	
	CONCORDIA	PARISH BRAKES	7,000	23	300	
	SUB TOTAL		22,680	111		---

1981 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR HARVEST BY DISTRICT AND PARISH (CONT'D.)

DISTRICT	PARISH	HABITAT	ACRES	TAG ALLOTMENT	ACRES/TAG	REMARKS
V	EVANGELINE	LAKE CHICOT	1,625	15	100	EXPERIMENTAL
	BEAUREGARD	BUNDICK LAKE	1,750	15	100	"
	SUB TOTAL		3,375	30		
VI	AVOUELLES	GRASSY LAKE W.M.A.	760	15	50	"
		SPRING BAYOU W.M.A.	3,240	30	100	"
		PARISH BRAKES	19,200	76	300	---
SUB TOTAL			23,200	121		
	IBERVILLE	ATACHAFALAYA BASIN SWAMP	86,540	58	1,500	---
	LAFAYETTE	SWAMP	29,880	60	500	---
			1,200	2		---
	ST. LANDRY	BASIN	17,240	11	1,500	---
	ST. MARTIN	BASIN	113,550	76	1,500	---
	W. BATON ROUGE	SWAMP	7,040	14	500	---
SUB TOTAL			247,210	221		
VII	ASCENSION	SWAMP	40,320	81	500	---
	E. BATON ROUGE	SWAMP	2,000	4	500	---
	LIVINGSTON	SWAMP	66,720	133	500	---
	ST. TAMMANY	SWAMP	28,457	118	240	EXPERIMENTAL
	TANGIPAHOA	SWAMP	71,181	142	500	---
SUB TOTAL			206,678	478		

1981 NON-MARSH ALLIGATOR HARVEST BY DISTRICT AND PARISH (CONT'D.)

DISTRICT	PARISH	HABITAT	ACRES	TAG ALLOTMENT	ACRES/TAG	REMARKS
VIII	ASSUMPTION	SWAMP	98,560	197	500	---
	LAFOURCHE	SWAMP	112,350	225	500	---
	ST. CHARLES	SWAMP	39,340	79	500	---
	ST. JAMES	SWAMP	76,960	154	500	---
	ST. JOHN	SWAMP	104,320	209	500	---
	ST. MARTIN	BASIN	80,000	54	1,500	---
	ST. MARY	BASIN	13,560	9	1,500	---
		SWAMP	60,190	120	500	---
	TERREBONNE	SWAMP	43,014	86	500	---
	IBERIA	BASIN	39,980	27	1,500	---
		SWAMP	31,550	63	500	---
SUB TOTAL			699,824	1,922		
GRAND TOTAL			1,153,712	2,384		
TOTALS - BY TYPE (ACRES TO BE HUNTED)						
	LAKES		64,125	462		
	SWAMPS		813,082	1,687		
	BASIN		350,870	235		
GRAND TOTAL			1,228,077	2,384		

8. Sale of Alligator Skins - All alligator skins taken during the alligator season must be authenticated by personnel of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries prior to the hides leaving the state. Special skinning instructions will be varified, and any skins not prepared according to instructions issued in advance of season will be considered illegal. Unused tags will be returned to Department personnel no later than 15 days after the close of the season. Buyers/dealers must abide by special skinning instructions or be subject to forfeiture of improperly skinned hides.
9. Buyer/Dealer Hide Records - All buyers and dealers making purchases of alligator hides shall maintain a complete set of records of all purchases and sales. Such records will include names and addresses of buyers and/or sellers, alligator hide tag number, date, and length. Dealers will submit reports as required by the Department for all hides purchased/sold.
10. Shipment - All shipments of raw alligator skins must be tagged with official out-of-state shipping tags provided by the Department. Forms provided must be filled out completely and returned to the Department within 15 days following the close of the season.
11. Sale of Meat and Parts - Meat and other parts from lawfully taken alligators can only be sold according to Louisiana Health Department regulations, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries regulations, and Federal laws. Anyone purchasing alligator parts for resale, manufacturing, processing and

distribution; excluding retailers and restaurants, shall purchase an alligator parts dealers license from the Department for \$50.00. Alligator hunters, farmers, and parts dealers shall maintain records of all transactions, purchases, and sales on forms provided by the Department. These forms shall be submitted to the Department within 30 days following the close of the season and thereafter at 60-day intervals until all parts are sold. All alligator meat and parts, excluding hides, shall be tagged with an official alligator parts tag (Color: Blue) to be furnished by the Department. Hunters, farmers, and dealers shall furnish a bill of sale to all retailers and restaurants purchasing alligator parts. This bill of sale shall be maintained for a period of six months.

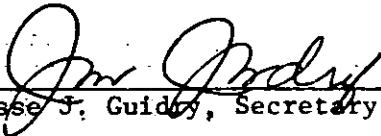
A statewide alligator nuisance removal program will be administered on an annual basis. This program will allow the taking of problem alligators within the confines of municipal, ward, parish, or state responsibility where there are alligator-people conflicts. Alligators taken under this program must be taken in accordance with state regulations and local regulations/ordinances. Skinning instructions issued by the Department will be for one calendar year. This nuisance removal program depends upon close cooperation of state, parish, and local authorities.

Tags may be issued to a local governing body and hunters may be selected by them. The number of tags issued will be based on the number of complaints received and the quantity and quality of alligator habitat involved. The Commission is hopeful this

program will lessen the threat to people and property by reducing human/alligator contact.

The administrative responsibility for conducting this season shall rest with Jesse J. Guidry, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

This is to certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the excerpts of the meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission held in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 28, 1981.



Jesse J. Guidry, Secretary